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Midnight Wednesday, October 1, Is Deadline for Paying Taxes

# Hope Star

WEATHER FORECAST  
ARKANSAS—Generally fair  
afternoon, tonight and Sunday;  
important temperature changes.Temperature  
High 55 Low 47

PRICE 5c COP

## NATIONAL BUSINESS WOMEN'S WEEK

SEPT. 28-OCT. 4

### "The Ramparts We Build"



Left to right: Mrs. Joe Hankins, Mrs. Opal Hervey, Mrs. Chas. Taylor, Miss Lucille Ruggles, Mrs. Thos. L. Compton, Mrs. Paul Klipsch, Mrs. W. C. Dickey, Mrs. J. W. Patterson, Mrs. J. T. Adams, Mrs. Aubrey Enoch, Mrs. Roy Stephenson, Miss Rosa Harrie, and Mrs. David Griffin.

This year the NATIONAL FEDERATION OF BUSINESS and PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUBS celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary of National Business Women's Week. Our organization numbers 160,000 members in 2700 clubs located in every state and in Hawaii, Alaska, and the District of Columbia. In choosing for our theme this year "The Ramparts We Build," we are concerned with all the ramparts, spiritual, political, military, diplomatic, cultural, and economic.

If one of them fail, we shall not succeed, for a chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

This Message Sponsored by the Following Hope Business Firms:

SINGER &amp; RIALTO THEATRES

FOSTER'S FAMILY SHOE STORE

WEST BROS.

REPHAN'S

ROBERT BURNS

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OKLAHOMA TIRE &amp; SUPPLY

JOE'S CITY BAKERY

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HOPE BASKET CO.

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SEARS ORDER OFFICE

HOTEL BARLOW

GIB LEWIS AUTO SALES

MISS HENRY'S GIFT SHOP

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MONTGOMERY WARD

BUTANE GAS CO.

LADIES SPECIALTY SHOP

ROY ANDERSON &amp; CO.

HOPE FURNITURE CO.

JOHN P. COX DRUG CO.

KLIPSCH AND ASSOCIATES

HOPE BUILDER'S SUPPLY CO.

SINGER SEWING MACHINE CENTER

LUCILLE RUGGLES

County Treasurer

HOPE TRANSFER CO.

COCA-COLA BOTTLING CO.

OWEN'S DEPT. STORE

BERT RETTIG MASH MOTORS

SCOTT STORES

J. C. ATCHLEY &amp; CO.

MEYERS BAKERY

TARPLEY'S ESSO STATION

### Daily Scrapbag

WASHINGTON (AP)—Gov. Adlai Stevenson, in explaining why he had a special fund to help pay the salaries of state officials, said: "The salary levels used by the states—although they vary—are so far below salaries for comparable responsibilities in private enterprise that some of the men entering my administration and remaining in it did so at a considerable hardship to themselves and their families."

Sen. Richard Nixon, in explaining his \$10,000 expense fund, said it was extremely difficult to live on a senator's salary.

President Truman repeatedly has said it's hard to attract, and keep, first class men working for the government.

Are public officials underpaid? Are taxpayers cheating themselves by not getting topflight men for complex, difficult jobs of government?

There are no sure-fire answers to these questions, but it's interesting to look at some of the salaries now being paid.

"The Book of States" put out by the Council of State Governments as statistics up to July, 1951, shows that the average salary of a state executive is \$10,000 a year. Some states don't have any. Those that do vary from \$15,000 in New York to \$4,000 in Montana, Utah and Nebraska.

Superintendent of public instruction, New York \$30,000, Idaho \$5,000.

The courts show the same wide variations. The U. S. Supreme Court justices get \$25,000 a year, with Chief Justice Vinson getting \$30,000 extra \$600. Some state judges, who are located in New York City, get \$31,500.

"The Book of States" lists salaries for judges on the highest state appellate courts. These range from \$20,000 in New York, \$24,000 in New Jersey, \$23,000 in Pennsylvania to \$7,000 in South Dakota and Utah.

There isn't even any agreement on how much should be allowed for expenses.

Virginia allows five cents a mile for travel. New York allows eight cents. Several states allow 12 cents. North Dakota—puts a 4-cent limit on meals. South Dakota puts the limit at \$2.50 a day, with hotel rooms at cost but not to exceed \$3 a night.

These figures, like those on salaries, are a year old and may have been raised since.

In general, federal salaries look better. And Truman hasn't said much about how poorly federal executives are paid since Congress boosted salaries in 1949.

Truman gets \$100,000 and up to \$60,000 in tax-free expense account. Vice President Barkley, who presides over the Senate, and Speaker Sam Rayburn, who presides over the house, get \$30,000 each plus \$10,000 expenses.

Cabinet officers get \$22,500. In all, more than 500 government executives get \$15,000 or more a year. This doesn't include Congress.

Representatives and senators each get \$12,500, plus a \$2,500 tax-free expense account. Next year the salary will be \$15,000—but no tax-free expense account.

Many congressmen besides Nixon have complained that, with all the entertaining and politicking they feel they must do, they have trouble making ends meet. Some write magazine articles, some lecture, some practice law.

But the real underpaid official appears to be the state legislator. States now have multimillion-dollar budgets. But the pay for those who serve in the state legislatures runs like this:

New York pays \$5,000 a year. North Carolina pays \$600 a session. Alabama \$10 a day. Missouri \$125 a month. Generally speaking, it's low everywhere.

In Kansas, it's 5 a day, or, when the figures were collected, there was a limit on the total income.

A Kansas legislator can't collect more than \$15,000 a session. The limit on a special session: 30 days, or \$150.

There are pictures of a dragon, a vulture, bull and giant on the flag of Ireland.

### Truman Cites Ike's Blunders in Europe

By ERNEST B. VACCARO

ABOARD TRUMAN TRAIN (AP)—President Truman accused Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower today of having endangered the country by commanding general in Europe by grave blunders which left America unaware of Russia's threat to world peace.

He said Eisenhower's advice that he saw no reason why Russia and the United States would not remain in the "closest possible friends" carried "great weight" and "did a great deal of harm."

If Eisenhower had given "better advice in 1945," Truman said, "we wouldn't have had so much trouble in waking up the country to the danger of Communist imperialism in 1948, 1947 and 1949."

Truman chose a "white stop" speech at Havre, Mont., to launch the latest of increasing bitter attacks on the Republican presidential nominee in reply to Eisenhower's own charges of blunders by the Truman administration in the field of foreign policy.

The President speaking from the rear platform of his campaign train special voiced praise of Rep. Mike Mansfield, Democratic candidate for the Senate against Sen. Elton (B-Mont) and Democratic presidential candidate Adlai Stevenson for having known "that communism was dangerous and we had to take measures to stop it."

Truman said Eisenhower "didn't" make "wise and foresightful" decisions. "After the war, while he was still commanding general of our forces in Europe," the President continued, "he said he saw no reason why Russia and the United States would not remain the closest possible friends."

Truman quoted Eisenhower as having told a congressional committee in November of 1945: "There is no one thing that guides the policy of Russia more today than to keep friendship with the United States."

Truman then went on to say of his own former Army chief of staff, Gen. George C. Marshall, who was never a member of the Communist Party and that she had never been taken, but the Republican candidate was he commanding general in Europe and was in close contact with the Russians. His advice carried great weight, policy, since Sen. Vandenberg died. He refuted the late Michigan Senator, who is regarded as the architect of the bi-partisan foreign policy.

The President carried his anti-Eisenhower barrage into Montana after telling North Dakota voters the general should be sent "back to the Army where he belongs."

His goal, his current \$250,000. Graney said the indictments are "another step in the program of slander by picturing him as a Communist. The indictments are a part of the program of slander, through, intelligent effort to protect our internal security against those who would tear down the freedoms which our constitutional form of democratic government guarantees."

Browder, pre-war secretary general of the U. S. Communist Party, was ousted from his leadership position in 1945 for his wartime action in helping to dissolve the party and the Communist political association.

A year later, in 1946, Browder was expelled from the Communist Party.

The Justice Department said, however, he traveled to Soviet Russia in 1946 and was received at "an old and trusted friend" of the United States.

Browder, a native of Kansas, subsequently became U. S. representative and was expelled from the party for his wartime action in helping to dissolve the party and the Communist political association.

He expressed this opinion in a message sent to the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. in Washington, D. C., on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of "National Business Women's Week."

The message reads: "I am happy to endorse this fine program sponsored each year by the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. in Washington, D. C., on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of 'National Business Women's Week.'"

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### Flower Show Rules in Horticulture Announced

"Harvest Time" is the theme of the eighth annual Flower Show sponsored by the Hope Federation of Garden Clubs which will be held at the VFW Hut Oct. 29, from 2 to 8 p.m.

In the horticulture department of the show flowers entered must have been grown by the exhibitor and only one entry will be accepted in any one class from the same exhibitor.

(Class: (One bloom or one stem) Marigolds, Zinnia, Cosmos, white, yellow and bronze and any type, Dahlia, red, white, yellow and bronze, and any type of Rose, any other type of Rose, any perennial and any annual not previously listed, any potted plant flowering in full bloom, any type of plant in possession of exhibitor at least three months) and bulbs, including tulips, crocuses and narcissus.

For complete information please contact the general chairman, Mrs. Henry Fenwick.

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### Van Fleet Will Retire If Pulled Out of Korea

SEOUL, Korea, (UP)—Gen. James A. Van Fleet has asked to stay here as the Army commander until the Korea War is ended and will retire if he is replaced earlier, reliable sources close to the general said today.

Van Fleet himself said he knew nothing about any plan for his replacement. He was asked to comment on the New York Times Dispatch from Washington that said he would be relieved as the Army commander.

"I know nothing about it," Van Fleet said.

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### Bible Observance Tonight at First Baptist Church

The Bible observance will be celebrated in Hope tonight at the First Baptist Church starting at 7:30 p.m.

Speakers will be the Rev. Thomas H. Carson, pastor of St. James Episcopal Church of Texas, Kansas, Texas. Mr. Carson is one of the outstanding preachers of the south.

The observance is in honor of the publication of the new Revised Standard Version of the Holy Bible. Music will be furnished by a 42 piece choir composed of members from the local churches.

Everyone is invited to attend this observance.

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### Rainfall First 9-Months Some 20 to 25 Inches Short of Yearly Average

June, September Had no Rain Whatever

Barling a deluge of rain in the next three months 1952 may be one of the driest years in history, according to figures compiled by the University of Kansas Experiment Station. The first nine months of 1952 have received only 31.43 inches. This compares with the 1945-51 ten-year average of 50.38 and with a yearly average of 53.24, making 1952 some 20 to 25 inches shy of the yearly average.

So far this year May has had the wettest with 5.98 inches of rain but two months ago there was a rainy one and September there was no rainfall whatever. Last year was below the average with 48.06 but according to records in this section was 11.65 inches with the coldest day a 10 below zero.

Although October, November, December are normally wet this it would be unusual, however, some 20 to 25 inches fall average year.

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### U. S. Airmen Down 61 Red Jets in Sept.

SEOUL, Korea (AP)—United States pilots today closed their books on the most successful month of the Korean War, U. S. pilots in Korea shot down 61 Communist MiG-15 fighters.

The previous high for U. S. pilots was 44 destroyed in August. That mark was passed in September as pilots shot down 61 MiG-15 fighters in the air.

On Sept. 4, the Sabre fighters shot down 13 Red warplanes and damaged 15. That was the high point of the month. Other big days were Sept. 13, eight destroyed, and Sept. 15, six destroyed.

Two fighters were shot down in the air. The results are as follows: Sept. 4, 13 destroyed; Sept. 13, 8 destroyed; Sept. 15, 6 destroyed; Sept. 16, 1 destroyed; Sept. 17, 1 destroyed; Sept. 18, 1 destroyed; Sept. 19, 1 destroyed; Sept. 20, 1 destroyed; Sept. 21, 1 destroyed; Sept. 22, 1 destroyed; Sept. 23, 1 destroyed; Sept. 24, 1 destroyed; Sept. 25, 1 destroyed; Sept. 26, 1 destroyed; Sept. 27, 1 destroyed; Sept. 28, 1 destroyed; Sept. 29, 1 destroyed; Sept. 30, 1 destroyed.

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## PRESCOTT NEWS

Tuesday, September 30  
There will be a special service at the First Methodist Church at 7:30 Tuesday evening in observance of the release of the new Standard Version of the Bible. There will be a special service at the church at 7:30 Tuesday evening in observance of the release of the new Standard Version of the Bible. There will be a special service at the church at 7:30 Tuesday evening in observance of the release of the new Standard Version of the Bible.

Wednesday, October 1  
There will be a pot luck supper at the Presbyterian Church on Wednesday evening. Mrs. J. M. Henderson of Brazil will be the guest speaker.

The Wednesday Bridge Club will meet on Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 in the home of Mrs. Gus McKinnell.

There will be prayer meeting at the Church of Nazareth on Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock.

On Wednesday evening at the First Baptist Church there will be an officers and teachers meeting at 7 o'clock, prayer and Bible study at 7:45 and choir practice at 8:20.

Mid-week services will begin at 7:45 on Wednesday evening at the Church of Christ.

There will be prayer meeting and Bible study at 7:30 p.m. with choir practice at the Church of Christ on Wednesday evening.

Thursday, October 2  
The choir of the Presbyterian Church will meet on Thursday evening at 7:30 for rehearsal.

The Prescott Little Church will meet on Thursday at 8:15 p.m. at the Broadway Hotel in place of the noon hour.

Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Wilson entertain Canada Club.

Members of the Blue Ribbon Canasta Club were entertained on Wednesday evening by Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Wilson in their home on the Cana Club.

Autumn flowers in colorful hues decorated the rooms arranged for the players.

High score honors for the evening were held by the men.

At the conclusion of the game, cherry pie and coffee was served to Dr. and Mrs. A. Buchanan, Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Denman, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Moore and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Cox.

Canada's Club entertained by Mrs. W. P. Denman was busiest of members of the 1950 Canasta Club at her home on Thursday afternoon.

Spider nine and thirteen in graceful arrangements were placed at vintage joints in the rooms.

Mr. Fred Powell held high score honors for the afternoon.

Mrs. W. P. Cunningham and Mrs. Powell were guests. Members of the club were present.

His name was taken off the ballot in one county following a court action by the White Sox last year from the petition filed yesterday was signed by 1400 voters, with 50 required under state law.

White Sox officials at New York for the World Series were unavailable for comment, but a club spokesman said no action would be taken by the club at this time.

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## Democrats Hold Another Unity Meet

ATLANTA, (UPI)—Democratic Party chiefs from six Southern states gathered today for a second strategy conference in less than two weeks to seek an effective means of pulling disaffected Dixie together.

The council of war was announced by National Democratic chairman Stephen Mitchell apparently to discuss the defection of Gov. James B. Byrnes of South Carolina, who announced he would support Republican presidential nominee Dwight D. Eisenhower and the re-election of Sen. Burnet F. Maybank (D-S.C.) from the national Democratic committee.

Mitchell announced yesterday in Little Rock, Ark., where he was attending a similar conference of seven southern states he would meet with party leaders from Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina and Virginia here tomorrow.

Presumably the Little Rock meeting, staged behind closed doors, took the statements of Gov. Robert F. Kennon of Louisiana and Allan Shivers of Texas that they would support the GOP presidential ticket.

The informal Democratic session came as the Republican party mustered its strongest effort to reconstruct Dixie to replace the break in the previously solid Southern ranks.

The GOP has launched a vigorous grass-roots drive to capture Dixie's vote and Eisenhower, who has already while-stopped through the South, will speak at Columbia, S. C., today before an estimated 75,000 in 100,000.

In contrast, the Democratic southern campaign has been muted but party leaders expressed confidence that tomorrow's meeting with Mitchell would herald the start of an all-out effort.

George Stewart, secretary of the Georgia Democratic Party, said:

"The Little Rock meeting, staged behind closed doors, took the statements of Gov. Robert F. Kennon of Louisiana and Allan Shivers of Texas that they would support the GOP presidential ticket."

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## Eisenhower to Make Issue of Smith Charge

NEW YORK (UPI)—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower will make a campaign issue out of Gen. Walter Bedell Smith's assumption that the Communist question in his whistle-stop Midwestern tour which gets under way tomorrow.

Before a plane takeoff for Columbia, S. C., the Republican presidential nominee worked on a speech aimed at browbeating the Democrats on the defensive on the Communist question.

For his text, the general took the testimony of Smith, an old comrade in arms in Washington yesterday that Smith assumes Communists have infiltrated even the Central Intelligence Agency which he heads.

The island of Formosa has a population of eight million, many of them refugees and Nationalist soldiers.

Smith said last week in a speech that he would support the GOP presidential nominee while Maybank broke with Democratic President Dwight D. Eisenhower and the re-election of Sen. Burnet F. Maybank (D-S.C.) from the national Democratic committee.

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## Trial of Three Is Postponed

HARRISBURG (UPI)—The trial of three persons charged with first degree murder in the prison death of a November 2 Riverside cafe.

Everything has been waiting until Mitchell gets here.

Mitchell, who will arrive here tomorrow, did not indicate what would be taken up at the conference but it was virtually certain that Byrnes said last week in a speech that he would support the GOP presidential nominee while Maybank broke with Democratic President Dwight D. Eisenhower and the re-election of Sen. Burnet F. Maybank (D-S.C.) from the national Democratic committee.

Mitchell announced yesterday in Little Rock, Ark., where he was attending a similar conference of seven southern states he would meet with party leaders from Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina and Virginia here tomorrow.

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## SOCIETY

ST. LOUIS, Mo., (UPI)—Stewart W. Smith, whose determination to "humanize" the library led him to permit readers to bring their dogs and smoke their pipes while browsing, has today begun his campaign to brighten public reading rooms.

Smith, director of St. Louis County's modernistic, glass-enclosed library, has installed reading tables at his own design—covered leather creates that put each person at a different angle from his neighbor and give at least the illusion of solitude.

"The average person likes to sit down with a book without being crowded in," Smith said. "And that average person, rather than the person who is operating this service for."

Smith's widely-copied features of the informal county reading room are sharply angled bookshelves that utilize all the daylight and leave few dark corners.

The shelves are identified with large wooden labels—each sign with such offhand descriptions as "thrills and chills" for mysteries, "thrills and chills" for mysteries, "thrills and chills" for mysteries.

The library has unlimited much of the book-keeping drudgery of the library with another of his own innovations—assigning a person to dispensing books to subscribers.

The librarian on duty merely signs the book card out of the book's jacket, and dictates the borrower's name and address on a card.

Discharged: Linda Whitton, of Reunion.

Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Altman of Hope announce the arrival of a son.

Branch: Mrs. Jack Harvey of Hope, Mr. Orville Powell, Hope, and Mrs. Powell, Hope.

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## Population Is Problem to Many Nations

Editor: (During his trip to Europe, C. B. Palmer, publisher of the Hope Star, is endeavoring to bring to the attention of the world problems and solutions that are being done or can be done to solve them.)

By E. PALMER  
Rome, Italy, Sept. 21 (AP) — The world's population is growing so fast that it is now a problem to many nations.

## Cramps Monthly look?

Many women who suffer from cramps during their monthly periods may find relief by taking a little Aspirin. Aspirin is a powerful pain killer and also helps to relax the muscles of the uterus. It is a safe and effective remedy for menstrual cramps. Aspirin is available in many forms, including tablets, capsules, and liquid. It is important to follow the directions on the package and to consult a doctor if the cramps are severe or persistent.

ARDU MONTHLY CRAMPS CHANGE OF LIFE

## Democrats Say Ike Should Unveil Income

By LYLE O. WILSON  
SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (UP) — Democratic campaign strategists are confident now that Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower must reveal his own personal financial history showing a whopping profit from service in World War II.

The profit came from the general's war work. Gov. Adlai E. Stevenson, Democratic presidential nominee, put the pressure on Eisenhower by publication of his own tax returns since 1942.

Republican vice presidential nominee Sen. Richard M. Nixon appeared on television for his financial accounting last week, a comprehensive report but short of tax return detail. Sen. John L. Sparkman, No. 2 on the Democratic ticket, is in print with his financial story, although the tax returns themselves still are to come.

Only Stevenson has laid his tax returns on the table. It is good and the voters want it. Eisenhower probably will have to do the same. And if the general comes through, the feet of Congress will be put to the ice next session. Congressmen will not pass any law requiring publication of their own income tax returns unless they are terrified, and absolutely convinced that the voters will kick them out of office if they balk.

But there is much doubt that Stevenson's income tax move was smart politics. The governor is a counter puncher, willing and able to bolt himself out of a corner in which the overall ruckus about secret funds seemed to have put him. This looked like his Sunday punch.

The Nixon expense account exposure backfired somewhat on the Democrats and on Stevenson, personally. A realistic political appraisal of Stevenson's publication of his own income tax returns makes it a pressing request to Nixon that he tell more. More about his income and outgo, that is.

It was more than a hint to Eisenhower to lay his income returns before the public, including 1948 when he received some or all of a flat sum for the book, "Crusade in Europe."

Doubleday and Co., published "Crusade in Europe" Nov. 24, 1948 at \$3 a copy. Estimates of the price paid Eisenhower have run to \$1,000,000, which probably is far too high.

Perhaps \$500,000 to \$700,000 would be closer to it. Doubleday and Co., told the United Press that only Eisenhower and four others know the sale price — and they aren't telling. Not yet, anyway.

Stevenson hasn't been doing too badly. \$20,000 gross income in 1948 and a steady rise, the same being the mark of industry, generally sound investments and, of late, about \$15,000 a year in salary and emoluments according to any governor of Illinois. He reported \$69,273 gross 1951 income.

## Eddie Cantor Is 'Resting Well'

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. — Eddie Cantor was resting well today in Cedars of Lebanon Hospital, where he plans to remain at least a week because of what his doctor calls complete exhaustion.

The 40-year-old comic complained of feeling ill Sunday night after finishing his first television show of the season. Dr. Julius Kahn immediately ordered him to the hospital.

## Search Starts for 80 Missing Fishermen

ROTTERDAM, The Netherlands — American and Atlantic Ocean coast of the Azores today looking for 80 persons missing from the Portuguese fishing vessel Jovo Costa, which sank last week.

A radio message received here said the American freighter Compass, out of New York picked up 18 survivors yesterday and was continuing the search for others. A French ship and the U. S. Coast Guard cutter Coos Bay also were combing the area.

Before the war the Dutch moved several entire villages, including the cemeteries, but conditions are so unsettled in Indonesia at present that the program has not been resumed by the new independent government. Siam could meet its problem if the Siamese would only produce three rice crops a year—which is entirely feasible—on land now producing one crop. Even part of this rice crop is exported. As in Malaya, the northern part of Siam is comparatively lightly populated and could support many more people.

Japan's situation is similar to that of India. The Japanese are reluctant to immigrate and most countries do not welcome them. China is China and entirely unpredictable. The pressure of China's present population is tremendous, but there are large provinces in the West which could have the many densely populated areas of the East. The Chinese are reluctant to move.

## Hammerstein Again to Turn Actor

By ROB THOMAS  
HOLLYWOOD, Calif. — For the second time in his notable career, Oscar Hammerstein II is turning actor. But it's merely to further his lengthy romance with the theater.

America's most successful writer of lyrics and musical plays will portray himself in a film called "Main Street to Broadway." It will be a co-operative affair featuring most of the Broadway stars and benefiting the Council for the Living Theater. The latter is aimed at pumping life back into the legit theater, now undergoing one of its periodic illnesses.

Hammerstein was here to visit his grandchildren and the touring company of "South Pacific." I asked him about his two widely separated acting chores.

"The first was when I was a young man," he related. "I was stage manager for one of my uncle's plays, and the script called for the stage manager to come on stage and say a few lines. So I played myself. But the play only lasted three weeks. I don't know if my performance had anything to do with that, but it certainly didn't help."

"Funny thing, I always wanted to be an actor. I did a lot of it in college, where I could write my own material, and direct and produce myself in it. But afterwards, nobody would give me a chance to act. I guess my family, being so close to the theater, didn't want me to become an actor."

The man who wrote the words for such shows as "Show Boat" and "Oklahoma" will again be playing himself in "Main Street to Broadway." He will do a theater lobby scene with his partner, Richard Rodgers, and their wives.

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Speaking about his favorite topic, the theater, Hammerstein admitted that the last season on Broadway was a bad one. "But I suspect there have been worse ones," he said. "Back in the '20s there were some good plays. But there were lots of others running that were pretty bad."

"That's the trouble with the stage today there is no margin for error. A show has to be a tremendous hit or it can't last. You have to be able to salvage some money out of a show that wasn't a smash. But now a show that isn't acclaimed can close in three nights."

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"The problem is also a creative one. There doesn't seem to be much design to the era we're living in. No wonder it is difficult for playwrights to find something to write about."

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America's most successful writer of lyrics and musical plays will portray himself in a film called "Main Street to Broadway." It will be a co-operative affair featuring most of the Broadway stars and benefiting the Council for the Living Theater. The latter is aimed at pumping life back into the legit theater, now undergoing one of its periodic illnesses.

Hammerstein was here to visit his grandchildren and the touring company of "South Pacific." I asked him about his two widely separated acting chores.

"The first was when I was a young man," he related. "I was stage manager for one of my uncle's plays, and the script called for the stage manager to come on stage and say a few lines. So I played myself. But the play only lasted three weeks. I don't know if my performance had anything to do with that, but it certainly didn't help."

"Funny thing, I always wanted to be an actor. I did a lot of it in college, where I could write my own material, and direct and produce myself in it. But afterwards, nobody would give me a chance to act. I guess my family, being so close to the theater, didn't want me to become an actor."

The man who wrote the words for such shows as "Show Boat" and "Oklahoma" will again be playing himself in "Main Street to Broadway." He will do a theater lobby scene with his partner, Richard Rodgers, and their wives.

"The script calls for me to ask someone for a match," Hammerstein mentioned. "Which is very interesting because neither Dick nor I smoke."

Speaking about his favorite topic, the theater, Hammerstein admitted that the last season on Broadway was a bad one. "But I suspect there have been worse ones," he said. "Back in the '20s there were some good plays. But there were lots of others running that were pretty bad."

"That's the trouble with the stage today there is no margin for error. A show has to be a tremendous hit or it can't last. You have to be able to salvage some money out of a show that wasn't a smash. But now a show that isn't acclaimed can close in three nights."

"Rising costs are another great problem. My uncle used to put on plays for \$7,000. Nowadays the minimum for a straight play is around \$70,000."

"The problem is also a creative one. There doesn't seem to be much design to the era we're living in. No wonder it is difficult for playwrights to find something to write about."

But he has no doubt that the theater will survive, as it always has. "Since the beginning of time," he observed, "there have always been people who wanted to show off, and there have always been people who wanted to listen and watch."

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